

# NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



Cooperating With:  
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY,  
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN)  
and  
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER  
INFORMATION CENTER

Released: March 27, 2006  
For Month Ending: March 26, 2006  
ND-CW1206

**General:** Temperatures during March were slightly below normal, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Snow melted across the state, while the largest quantities remained in the northeast. Some reporters noted moisture is needed before planting. Producers were preparing machinery and lining up inputs for spring fieldwork.

Statewide, average snow depth was 2.3 inches on March 26 compared with 0.9 inch last year. The northeast and east central districts reported the most snow cover with 8.9 and 3.1 inches, respectively. Conversely, the northwest district reported only 0.1 inch of snow cover, and 0.5 inch was reported in the southeast district.

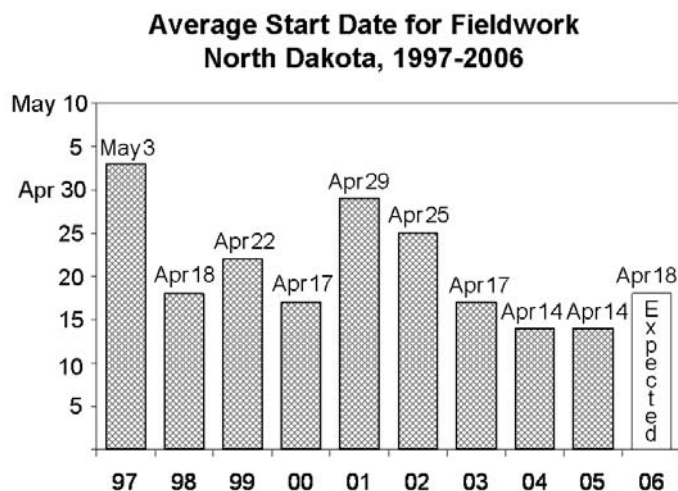
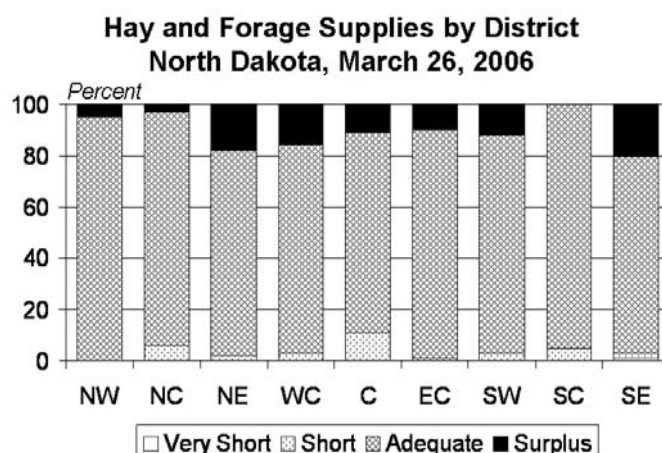
Road conditions were generally dry; however, recent moisture and thawing have made some roads muddy. County and secondary roads were rated 95 percent open, 4 difficult and 1 closed to travel. Road conditions were 2 percent drifted, 2 icy, 24 muddy and 72 dry.

**Crops:** The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 18, 4 days later than last year. The expected starting date ranged from April 10 in the south central district to April 28 in the northeast district. Movement of grain was slowed by road conditions and availability of railcars.

**Livestock:** Favorable weather allowed calving and lambing to progress with some difficulties reported. Calving, at 36 percent, and lambing, at 52 percent, were in full swing, but behind last year. Shearing moved closer to completion at 73 percent. Cow conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 11 fair, 68 good and 19 excellent. Calf conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 11 fair, 72 good and 16 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 7 fair,

72 good and 19 excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 9 fair, 72 good and 18 excellent.

Hay and forage supplies were rated 4 percent short, 86 adequate and 10 surplus compared with last year's rating of 2 percent very short, 15 short, 77 adequate and 6 surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were 2 percent short, 89 adequate and 9 surplus. Ninety-nine percent of the pastures and ranges were dormant.



~ Compiled and Published by ~

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NORTH DAKOTA CROP WEATHER REPORT**, Month Ending March 26, 2006

**Page Two**

Weather: Overall, March 2006 was colder than average for the majority of the state. The coldest temperatures were found across the northeastern areas of the state where the heaviest snow pack exists. The southwestern part of the state also saw below average temperatures. Southeastern sections of the state saw the warmest temperatures for the month, with average monthly temperatures a few degrees above the seasonal normals. Temperatures were seasonal through March 12 for the majority of the state. Cold air moved in around March 13 and kept temperatures below average through March 24. Temperatures finally rebounded to seasonal averages by March 25. March was also a dry month for the state. Many areas saw below average precipitation and snowfall. Areas in the western part of the state saw the driest conditions and recorded deficits of between 0.25 and 0.50 inch. Areas in the east saw the wettest conditions in the state, but still remained below average for precipitation.

Outlook, April: The month of April looks to start off with temperatures close to or above seasonal normals for many areas. A shift in the upper air wind pattern will result in mild temperatures and little or no precipitation for the first 10 days of the month. Another change in the pattern may result in increased chances for precipitation towards the middle and end of the month. Overall, the state has a good chance of seeing above average precipitation for the month of April, especially in the eastern portions of the state. Temperatures look to be near seasonal normals for the entire state.

**TEMPERATURE**, March 1-26, 2006

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm <sup>1/</sup>
	Degrees F	Degrees F	Degrees F	Degrees F
NORTHWEST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bowbells	50	1	24	-5
Williston	47	5	27	-1
Mohall	51	4	25	0
Minot	53	8	27	2
NORTH CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Baker	42	4	23	1
Bottineau	42	5	24	2
Rugby	47	7	24	0
NORTHEAST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cando	37	-1	21	-4
Cavalier	38	-6	21	-3
Forest River	40	-8	24	-1
Grand Forks	38	-12	21	-3
Langdon	35	-11	19	-3
St. Thomas	38	-12	19	-5
WEST CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hazen	50	0	28	1
Turtle Lake	51	4	27	-1
Watford City	43	3	27	-5
CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Carrington	44	8	26	2
Harvey	51	7	26	-1
Jamestown	49	4	27	-1
Robinson	50	6	27	1
Streeter	49	2	27	-1
EAST CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dazey	41	7	25	-1
Fargo	46	4	25	-1
Hillsboro	44	-6	22	-4
SOUTHWEST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Beach	49	8	27	-3
Bowman	52	3	27	-2
Dickinson	50	9	28	-2
Hettinger	54	-1	27	-4
SOUTH CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mandan	54	5	29	1
Linton	54	9	30	1
SOUTHEAST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Edgeley	51	9	29	2
Oakes	53	5	28	2
Wyndmere	47	3	27	-2

<sup>1/</sup> Normal is the 1971-2000 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.